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Volume 8, Issue 23 wilcoxnewspapers.com • 269-657-3072 USPS 564-620

PPHS celebrates mural completion with Ice Bucket Challenge

What was once a plain brick wall at Paw Paw High School (PPHS) has been transformed into a stunning 1,800 square foot mural by Detroit-based artist Marlo Broughton and students from PPHS. To celebrate the completion of the mural, students recently nominated teachers, administrators, and even Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to accept the ice bucket challenge to increase mental health awareness. To keep the momentum going, the challenge is simple:

- Grab a bucket, some ice, and a friend
- Record your challenge and tag others to take it next
- Post on social media and tag @ uscmind and @speakyour_mind to be featured

The original idea for a mural was conceived by PPHS Art Teacher Sarah Bentley and honors the life of her teenage son, who lost his battle with mental health last fall. The collective goal of the mural was to create a positive, inspiring message that not only welcomed students but also sparked real conversations about mental health struggles.

In less than a month, Broughton and students from Sarah Bentley's art class and Seah Kubik's English class have been collaborating on this larger-than-life mural.

With an initial goal of raising $5,000 to cover project expenses, generous community members, businesses and non-profits have already contributed over $4,200 to the project. If others wish to donate to this project and future high school mural projects, a secure fundraising page has been created on the Paw Paw Public School district's website, or donors may mail a check to: Paw Paw High School, 30609 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw, MI, 49079. Please reference: High School Mural Donation in the memo line.

Thumm named new LPS K-12 principal

LAWRENCE - Brock Thumm has been selected as the new K-12 principal at Lawrence Public Schools, according to a press release from LPS Superintendent Ryan Williamson.

Williamson said of Thumm's selection, "This decision reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring a strong, stable, and supportive learning environment for all students. As we make this transition, we want to assure you that our focus remains on what matters most - supporting students, families, and staff and providing a safe environment for learning.

"Mr. Thumm brings a deep passion for education and a proven track record of service-driven leadership. He is widely recognized as an excellent communicator, a skilled problem solver, and a builder of positive school culture. Just as importantly, he is looking forward to becoming deeply engaged in and connected to our local community.

"The guidance of the interview committee was reliant on the results of the community and staff survey regarding our K-12 vacancy and what qualities stakeholders value most in a school leader and identified the following: someone who communicates clearly, is accessible and supportive, builds strong relationships, and manages student behavior effectively. Mr. Thumm reflects all of these qualities and is well-prepared to lead our schools with heart, purpose, and professionalism.

"We are committed to open and clear communication as Mr. Thumm steps into this role, and we're confident he will quickly become a familiar and trusted presence in the lives of our students and families."

Williamson concluded, "We look forward to the leadership and care he will bring to our district, and to the continued success of our students under his guidance."

Williamson said in a strategic shift aimed at strengthening school leadership without disrupting student and staff experiences, LPS adopted a K–12 principal model with a clear goal, "ensure that the internal restructuring of leadership has no adverse impact on day-to-day learning or staff support."

To achieve a seamless transition, LPS prioritized clear and explicit communication with all stakeholders, students, staff, and families. Expectations around responsibilities and availability were clearly outlined, and comprehensive support and mentorship will be provided to Thumm to ensure his success.

Williamson said the key to the model's success is the continuation of academic programming, support systems, curriculum, and instructional practices. Equally vital is the district's ongoing commitment to student discipline and maintaining a safe, inclusive environment where both students and staff can thrive.

In preparation for this transition, LPS sought community and staff input through a K–12 Principal Input Survey. The feedback highlighted the critical qualities expected in the new leader: transparent communication, accessibility, student and staff support, consistent behavior management, strong relationship-building skills, and engagement in the community. These priorities guided the interview selection committee through the hiring process.

Williamson said Thumm's qualifications align closely with the district's identified needs. "Mr. Thumm brings a service-driven leadership style grounded in vision, mission, and shared beliefs. He is known for effective communication with staff, students, and parents, and for providing daily support through problem-solving and guidance. His active involvement in LPS events and activities, as well as his commitment to building a positive school culture and adhering to district policies, made him the clear choice for the role.

"Mr. Thumm has a strong background in educational leadership, with a particular focus on building a positive school culture and driving student-centered improvement. He believes in fostering a collaborative environment that empowers educators and supports students from all backgrounds. He describes his leadership style as one of absolute transparency, accountability, and equity - principles he brings to every aspect of his work.

"With experience implementing effective leadership practices and forming strong relationships with students, staff, parents, and community partners, Mr. Thumm is well-prepared for this new role. He has expressed enthusiasm about LPS's commitment to innovation and equity, noting that these values closely align with his own. He looks forward to working with a dedicated team to ensure every student has access to a rigorous and supportive education.

"Mr. Thumm's defining quality is his unwavering commitment to excellence. He is known as someone who goes the extra mile - and stays until the job is done right," said Williamson.

Lawton Village Council hears update on village rental ordinance

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON – At the Lawton Village Council's Tuesday, May 27, meeting, Lawton Village Council President Josh Appleby brought the village rental ordinance update to the floor for discussion, as the village attorney was present to address questions.

Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg recommended an implementation date longer than 30 days to educate the public. Council members discussed the best course of action of implementation and enforcement, citing it would like to see letters sent to landlords, as well as a press release slated for approval at the June 10 meeting.

Discussion was also held on time of registration versus being licensed. Village council members said they would like to see the language changed to allow for a separate registration window and a licensing window to allow time for inspections. Council members wanted to know what would happen to renters if the owners have not been licensed. The village attorney said the issue would be addressed in court, attaining a formal hearing, with a goal to try and enter a consent judgement to get the rental ordinance. If not followed at that point, then the judge would give an order that they could no longer rent. In doing this, it would provide landlords plenty of opportunities to become compliant.

Discussion was held about a future construction board of appeals, and how it would come into play. Land contracts were also discussed. The village attorney will make changes as needed, and a final draft of the zoning ordinance will be presented to the Lawton Village Planning Commission for approval.

During Citizen's Comments, Tony Greenway, a resident of Main Street, asked about brush pickup. Greenway said that his brush has not been picked up, and he would like to know about pickup or whether communication could be sent out if it is running behind.

Village Manager Hackenberg said his brush would be picked up by week's end. The delay was caused by a vehicle breakdown.

The council approved a resolution in support of continued MEL funding, citing its importance to the local community, and approved a resolution in support of the Vineyard Classic Bike Tour.

Cooper is speaker at Paw Paw services

Paw Paw Memorial Day services were held Memorial Day morning at Veterans Park after the parade. The speaker was Airman Bennett Cooper of Paw Paw.

This was the first time since WWII that a World War II veteran was not present for this service. Our WWII generation is quickly disappearing as with past generations.

Bob Adams and Steve Haddad have been organizing and running this service for the past 47 years. This year they turned the responsibilities over to Paw Paw High School and the Paw Paw Lions Club.

Renovations to South Haven's Forest House Hotel aided by grant

By James Windell

The very first commercial building built in South Haven is undergoing an amazing facelift. Restoration work on the Forest House, built almost 175 years ago as a hotel on the corner of Phoenix Street and Center Street, is well underway – helped by a large grant from an anonymous foundation.

Speaking at an open house at the building now located at 313 Center Street in downtown South Haven on Saturday, May 24, 2025, Jim Ollgaard, President of the Historical Association of South Haven (HASH), gave a report on the progress of renovation work.

"We have spent the last year working hard to restore the Forest House Hotel," Ollgaard said to HASH members and the public at the open house. "We are making it into a place for our organization to celebrate as well as to sustain HASH in the future."

Ollgaard went on to trace the history of the Forest Hotel. "We purchased this three-story building a little more than three years ago," he said. "It was built in 1853 and named the Warren House and operated as a hotel with room and board to accommodate the growing population of South Haven." In fact, as South Haven's first hotel the population of the area was about 200 people with around half of that number residing in the Forest House.

Initially, the structure was three stories high with the third floor serving as a full-length ballroom. The ballroom was the hub for social gatherings, political meetings, and religious services. Sometime after 1895, the building was moved from the corner where Clementine's Restaurant is today further down the block on Center Street.

"Nothing substantial changed to the building until we purchased it in January, 2022," Ollgaard said. "We have been working on restoring and repairing it ever since. It was the money raised from generous donations from our South Haven patrons that gave us the courage to move forward. We have worked diligently for two years until a fundraising miracle took place in December, 2024."

Ollgaard related the story of that miracle. "Out of the blue, this friend, who is the manager of a foundation in St. Louis, Missouri, asked what amount of money I thought would be needed to complete the whole building as well as convert the rental space into a speakeasy."

After Ollgaard told him that he thought it would take $1.5 million to complete the restoration, the man, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that that amount of money would be available for the project.

However, the grant was available only if certain conditions were met. "The first condition was that we host the Forest House Hotel jazz band from St. Louis several times to give them experience playing outside of the St. Louis area," Ollgaard said. "The second was that the speakeasy be named Chez D. And the third was that the restoration be done within three years." Ollgaard added that they are now at one and a half years into the project and he quipped, "You are standing in Chez D." He also said that the foundation would also provide a matching grant for an additional $1.5 million for an endowment fund "To ensure that the Forest House venture flourishes and that HASH would enjoy a bright future."

Among the renovations at the Forest House is a storefront that will be similar to what it was in 1906, a speakeasy with a bar, a stage and lighting, a full commercial kitchen, and commercial space on the ground floor.

Acknowledging that telling the audience at the open house about the grant was not a "great fundraising strategy," he said that HASH is doing just fine. "Still, we must prepare for the future," he said. "Setting up an endowment fund will allow the generations that follow us to take on the responsibility of the past and to be secure with the ups and downs that will surely happen."

Ollgaard said that HASH would begin an endowment drive later this summer in order to capture as much of the matching funds as possible.

Forest House will be open this summer during various downtown festivities, such as HarborFest that takes place June 13 & 14.

For more information about Forest House and HASH, go to their website at www.historyofsouthhaven.org

VBC commissioners approve additional shift supervisor position to 911 Central Dispatch

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - On May 27, VanBuren County Commissioners approved the allocation of an additional shift supervisor position to 911 Central Dispatch.

Van Buren County 911 Central Dispatch is responsible for receiving and dispatching emergency calls for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services throughout the county. The reliability, responsiveness, and performance of 911 Central Dispatch depend on maintaining appropriate staffing levels to ensure public safety and service efficiency.

The department requested the allocation of an additional shift supervisor position to meet operational demands and maintain adequate supervisory coverage. The addition of this position will increase total 911 Central Dispatch staffing from 17 to 18, enhancing scheduling flexibility, oversight, and continuity of leadership across shifts.

Commissioners said this staffing adjustment supports the county's broader goals of maintaining high standards in emergency communications and ensuring safe and efficient service to the community.

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Cindi Compton and Kate Hosier to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a term beginning June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2028.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is tasked with facilitating the rehabilitation and redevelopment of environmentally distressed, blighted, or functionally obsolete properties within Van Buren County. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority plays a critical role in the revitalization and redevelopment of underutilized, contaminated, or blighted properties in Van Buren County. Commissioners said Compton and Hosier have served as active and contributing members of the authority, with Compton representing Land Development interests and Hosier serving as chair and representing City Government. Both individuals expressed a desire to continue their service to the authority.

A seat on the authority representing Public Schools became vacant due to Dr. Patrick Creagan's decision not to seek reappointment at the conclusion of his term. James Wiseley, superintendent of Gobles Public Schools, applied to fill this vacancy and bring educational and community development perspectives to the authority.

Commissioners said Wiseley's leadership experience and role within the public education sector will contribute valuable insight to the work of the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Commissioners approved Wiseley's appointment to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a term beginning June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2028.

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Judy Janssen to the Jury Board for a six-year term to expire April 30, 2030. The Jury Board is a three-member panel established pursuant to state law, responsible for maintaining and reviewing the list of qualified jurors for Van Buren County, with members serving staggered six-year terms.

Appointments to the Jury Board are made by the Board of Commissioners upon recommendation from the circuit court judges of the county. Commissioners said Janssen has served dutifully as a member of the Jury Board and has expressed her willingness to be reappointed for another term. Van Buren County Circuit Court judges reviewed Janssen's performance and recommended her reappointment.

Commissioners approved the use of the paved county-owned parking lots adjacent to the Van Buren County fairgrounds - specifically those serving the Department of Health and Human Services Building and former Health Department Building - for overflow parking during the Van Buren Youth Fair, outside of posted county business hours.

The Van Buren Youth Fair is a long-standing community tradition that provides educational, social, and economic benefits to county residents. The fair is scheduled to take place from July 14 -19, with anticipated peak attendance during this period requiring overflow parking accommodation near the fairgrounds.

Commissioners approved a request from the Van Buren County Specialty Courts to submit the annual Office of Community Corrections grant application to the Michigan Department of Corrections for continued support of its pretrial services programs.

Van Buren County Specialty Courts provide critical pretrial intervention and supervision programs through the Office of Community Corrections (OCC), supporting public safety and judicial efficiency. These programs offer structured services such as supervision, drug testing, and access to evidence-based interventions like Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting accountability during the pretrial phase

The Michigan Department of Corrections offers annual OCC grant funding to support such programs, and Van Buren County Specialty Courts sought approval to submit a funding application for the 2025 grant cycle. The requested funds will support 85 percent of the OCC coordinator position, 20 percent of the Specialty Court administrator's salary, and 10 percent of the jail screener/ project director's compensation, all of which are vital to daily operations including case management, risk assessment, compliance monitoring, and participant support.

This funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, requiring the county to initially incur eligible expenses, with reimbursement submitted to and approved by the state. The approval is needed to submit the application in advance of the May 30, 2025, deadline to ensure consideration by the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Commissioners approved a request from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Department to purchase a 2020 Ford F-150 truck from Tapper Ford, Paw Paw, for $42,083. The Animal Control Department is responsible for providing humane, safe, and responsive animal-related services throughout the county. Commissioners said reliable and properly equipped transportation is essential for the department to carry out field operations, emergency response, and the safe transport of animals.

The 2020 Ford F-150 truck meets the operational and safety requirements of the department and will replace an aging unit currently in the fleet. The vehicle will be acquired from Tapper Ford through the State of Michigan's cooperative purchasing contract, which ensures competitive and standardized pricing. The vehicle being replaced will be repurposed and transferred to the Van Buren County Building and Grounds Department for maintenance use.

Vietnam vet receives Quilt of Valor

Local quilter Nadine Stacks presented a Quilt of Valor to Vietnam Veteran Bruce Thatcher at a ceremony on Memorial Day at United Methodist Church in Casco Township.

COMMUNITY EVENT

What: **Vacation Bible School**

Where: Bethel Baptist Church;
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South Haven;
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Who: Children ages 4 to 12

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

This will be a time of Bible Stories, songs, snacks and prizes. Parents are welcome to stay.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Van Buren firefighters battle two similar fires on the same day

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

At about 4:45 pm on Sunday, June 1st, emergency services were dispatched to an ablaze residence on the south (Van Buren County) side of Baseline Road near 51 ½ in Columbia Township.

Deputies from the Van Buren County Sheriff's office and Life Ambulance attendants were the first to arrive on the scene. They worked swiftly to assist the wheelchair-bound homeowner out of their burning home and treat their injuries.

By the time the resident was safely out of the home, the fire had spread to two neighboring outbuildings and a nearby field. Luckily, though, eight fire departments had arrived with tankers and manpower: Columbia Township, Allegan, Bangor Community, Bloomingdale, Gobles Pine Grove, Lawrence, Lee Township, and South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES).

The firefighters quickly got to work, and according to the Gobles Pine Grove FD, extinguished the blaze within an hour and a half.

This fire marked the second time on Sunday that the Allegan, Bloomingdale, and Gobles-Pine Grove fire departments came together to battle a house fire.

Just about 12 hours earlier, at around 5 am, the three departments were dispatched to the Brunner residence on M-40 near 6th Avenue and the Gobles Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Upon arrival, firefighters learned that the home had been fully engulfed in flames. They worked diligently for the next three hours, extinguishing the flames and trying to salvage what they could. However, the structure fire ultimately resulted in a total loss.

Fortunately, though, the home was vacant, so only the building was lost. No lives or injuries occurred.

Although the official cause of both fires is unknown, the Brunner family believes their home fell victim to an arson attack.

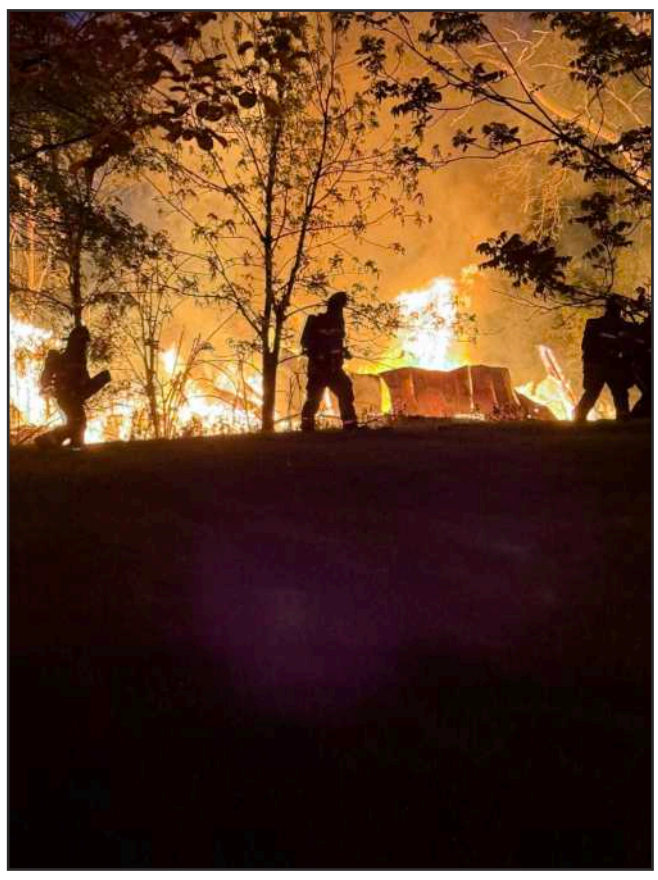
In a semi-viral Facebook post, Scott Brunner, caretaker of his grandparents' former home, alleges that someone trespassed onto the property in the cover of night and lit the house on fire.

He recently gated the driveway, but before that, Brunner says that teenagers would frequently cause chaos on the property, and he'd have to shoo them off almost daily.

Couple that with the fact that the home's power has been turned off for a while, and Brunner believes that there's no way it could've happened by accident.

He also stated that the Columbia Township fire "sounds suspiciously similar."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Gobles Pine Grove Fire Department at (269) 628-2908.



Firefighters worked early in the morning this past Sunday to battle a house fire north of Gobles. Photo from Scott Brunner's Facebook page.

The wreckage left over after a terrible fire devastated the Brunner family's Gobles house. Photo from Scott Brunner's Facebook page.

Firefighter #55 grabbing a hose to extinguish a burning house in Columbia Township. Photo courtesy of Tom Renner/SHAES

Mroczek to compete for Miss Michigan title

Lauren Mroczek of Mattawan will be competing for the title of Miss Michigan 2025 at the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon, the week of June 9, 2025. Lauren will represent Kalamazoo and Calhoun County on the Miss Michigan stage as Miss Greater Kalamazoo 2025, where she won the title last November.

As a part of the Miss America Opportunity (Pageant), she advocates for her Service Initiative, Feeding Ourselves: The Importance of Fruits and Vegetables. Preliminary competition is June 12 and Finals are being held on June 14. Attendance is open to the public both in person and via livestream. Please visit www.missmichigan.org for more information.

In addition, on November 14, 2024 at the Detroit Opera House, Lauren was awarded the prestigious Governor's Service Award as one of six Youth Volunteer of the Year recipients by Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist. Lauren was nominated and selected to receive the award for her work with her community project, Growing Gardens for Growing Minds. The Youth Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to individuals aged 25 and younger who work hard to make an impact in their community through volunteerism. These individuals create solutions to make lives better and demonstrate the spirit of being change makers.

Lauren studied Biomedical Science with an emphasis in Nutrition Science at Grand Valley State University and combined her education and Service Initiative through the Miss America Opportunity to create Growing Gardens for Growing Minds. The overarching goal of the project is to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables and to inspire the regular consumption of fruits and vegetables to lower the risk of developing life-threatening chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

Lauren's achievements through her Service Initiative and Growing Gardens for Growing Minds not only resulted in her being awarded the 2024 Governor's Service Award, but also contributed to her winning the title of Miss Greater Kalamazoo 2025, where she continues to serve the community, the state of Michigan, and beyond.

Hartford Strawberry Festival celebrates 37 sweet years

The Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of the Hartford Strawberry Festival, taking place June 13 & 14, 2025. Now in its 37th year, this cherished annual tradition continues to bring families and visitors together to celebrate the sweet spirit of summer and community.

Held every year on the second weekend in June, the Hartford Strawberry Festival offers something for everyone. This family-friendly event features a wide variety of activities including:

- •Colorful parades
- •Live music from local bands
- •An entertaining magician show
- •The ever-popular pie eating contest
- •Thrilling carnival rides
- •A lively street dance
- •Delicious offerings from food vendors
- •Unique finds from craft vendors

For a full schedule of events and more information, please visit: www.hartfordmichamber.org/hartford-strawberry-festival

For more information or to place an ad Call (269) 657-3072 or 657-5080 BEFORE MONDAY AT 5PM

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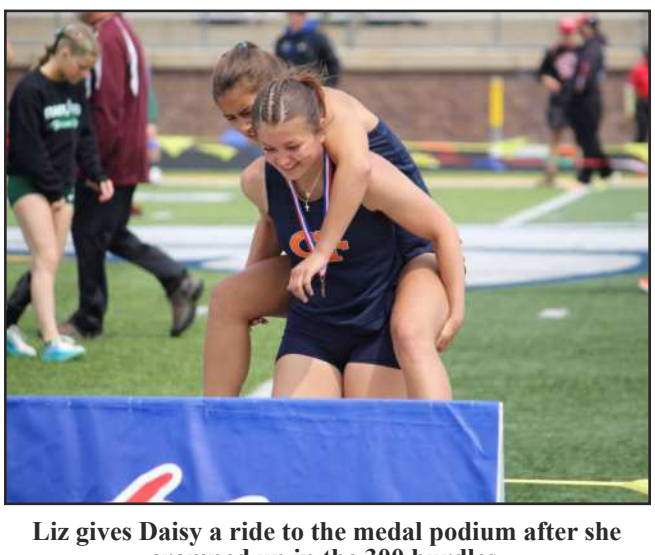
SPORTS

Gobles Girls Track and Field State Meet Results



Liz gives Daisy a ride to the medal podium after she cramped up in the 300 hurdles.

Libby Smith: 3rd in the 3200, 7th in the 1600, 5th in the 4x800 relay.

Back row L-R: Estrada, L. Smith, E. Wood, Platt, DeYoung, Cooley, Shaffer
Front row L-R: Seniors Zoie Wood, Elizabeth Smith, and Sasha Doll

4x200 Relay: L-R Madison Cooley, Ava DeYoung, Daisy Estrada, Liz Smith

It was a cold morning last Saturday as we headed to Hudsonville to compete in the MHSAA Individual Track and Field Championships. The performances quickly heated up the stadium as we brought home more medals than any other team in Gobles history. The scoring started with the very first race of the day in the 4x800 relay. The team of Zoie Wood, Libby Smith, Lauren Shaffer, and Madison Cooly finished All-State for the second year in a row with a 5th place finish in 10:18.18. Sasha Doll was our only representative in the field events where she competed in the High Jump. There were only 4 people that jumped higher than her 4' 11", but she missed out on taking home a medal by tie-breaker criteria, finishing in 11th place in the state. Next to score was Daisy Estrada in the 100 meter dash where she broke her own school record with a time of 12.52 seconds and finished in 5th place. Our 4x200 relay team of Elizabeth Smith, Estrada, Ava DeYoung, and Cooley also brought home a 5th place with a time of 1:49.86. Libby Smith finished 7th in the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:16.44. Our 4x100 relay team of Olivia Platt, Ellie Wood, Sasha Doll, and Elizabeth Smith brought home medals for the 5th year in a row with a time of 52.44, good enough for 6th place. This was Elizabeth's 4th year in a row medaling in this relay. Sophomore Olivia also medaled in this event last year. We had runners in the next 3 events but came up just short of the medal stand with Cooley 11th in the 400, Estrada 12th in the 300 Hurdles, and Shaffer 14th in the 800. Estrada redeemed her first loss of the year in the 300 Hurdles by working out her cramp and taking home a 6th place medal in the 200 meter dash with a time of 26.54. Next up was Libby Smith with our top finish of the day, a 3rd in the 3200 Meter run in 11:20.47. This is the second year in a row she has been an All-State medalist in 3 events. The 4x400 relay team of Ellie Wood, Shaffer, DeYoung and Cooley ran our fastest time since 2010 and finished just 2 seconds shy of the medal stand with a 10th place time of 4:21.25.

Overall we had had a school record 10 different girls come home with medals, 4 of them with 2 or 3. This led to an 8th place finish overall, our 3rd year in a row finishing in the top 10 in the state. I am incredibly proud of this group of young ladies and all they have accomplished throughout this season. Sasha, Liz and Zoie have been incredible team leaders and performers the past 4 seasons and your presence will be missed next year. Best of luck to you in your college adventures. ~ Coach Wood

photos by Kathie Brown

Mattawan lacrosse in state semifinals

Will Edington has been among Mattawan's top lacrosse players this season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Will Edington has been among the key players for a Mattawan lacrosse team which was scheduled to play on Tuesday (June 3) in a state semifinal game against Detroit Country Day.

The winner was set to advance to the state title game, at 7 p.m. on June 6 at the University of Lacrosse stadium in Ann Arbor. Mattawan was 18-1 entering the game against the Country Day team which handed the Wildcats their only loss 18-6 the second game of the season.

On Friday in a quarterfinal game, Mattawan beat Haslett 11-10 in overtime at Grandville.

Mattawan beat Battle Creek Lakeview 14-4 and Holland Christian 13-2 in the regionals for the title.

Edington is a defenseman and is among the several lacrosse players who also play Mattawan hockey.

He's played Matttawan lacrosse four seasons and said it's the first time the Wildcats have been this far since 2002.

"I think it's been our brotherhood and camaraderie," Edington said, referring to the team's success. "We all trust each other and know the playing ability of each other."

As a defenseman "I'm able to direct other players in a kind and efficient way."

The physicality "and competitiveness with lacrosse and hockey is unmatched with any other sports."

In lacrosse, there are nine players on the field and one goalie, Edington said.

South Haven's baseball season ends in districts

By John Raffel
Correspondent

South Haven't baseball team lost 2-1 to Holland Christian on May 27 in first-round action

South Haven's season ended at 15-10.

South Haven coach Dave McWhinnie commented:

"It was a good game, right down to the wire. They played a little bit cleaner than we did. In a tight game, it comes down to who can take care of the ball.

"We always talk about limiting the "freebies" or free bases. We gave up then they did and it cost us. It was a good season for us. This team was a lot of fun to be around and coach everyday.This is a great group of guys."

Max Verseput started on the game for South Haven and recorded 19 outs Verseput singled into right field to help South Haven tie the game the bottom of the fit. But it would be South Haven's only run.

Verseput took the pitching loss for South Haven. He went 6.1 innings giving up two runs on three hits and striking out eight and walking three.

Verseput had two hits and one run batted in.

South Haven split a double-header with Holland on May 23, winning the first game 4-1 and losing the second 8-3.

Lawrence high jumper performs at state finals

Dillon Simpson competed in the state finals for Lawrence.

By John Raffel

Dillon Simpson enjoyed quite a senior season at Lawrence High School.

Simpson was in various events including the discus, sprints, hurdles and relays. But he especially had a strong season in the high jump. He had an effort of 6-feet for a personal record early in the season and also got 6-1 in the = regionals at New Buffalo to qualify for the state Division 4 meet on May 31 at Hudsonville.

He took 10th at the state finals with an effort of 5-10.

"It's been a little bit of a journey," Simpson said. "Last year I was supposed to do high jump. It was my first year of doing track. It was my first year of doing something besides cross country. It was my first year of doing basketball and cross country as well.

"But then I broke my wrist so the doctors wouldn't let me run or jump. I was restricted to only throwing. It ended up being a good time. I was pretty good in throwing. This year I was hefty and started jumping I was coming in new and didn't know what I was doing. I started jumping."

Simpson said jumping was his main focus at regionals.

"I started jumping and cleared everything to 5-11 which was the qualifier for state and went over with room to spare. It was a real nice jump. They raised it to 6-1 and I cleared that."

At the state finals, Simpson was hoping to finish high or geta PR.

"It's an awesome privilege to be there," Simpson said.

He also plays basketball. Simpson is a senior and plans to go to Lansing for two years and compete in track and after getting his associates degree he'll transfer to a Division 2 school and continue to compete in track and field.

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SPORTS

South Haven softball takes title

District champion South Haven Rams

South Haven Lady Rams hoist the District championship trophy in celebration of dramatic win over Stevensville Lakeshore.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven won the softball sistrict championship with a dramatic walk off homerun on Saturday.

South Haven improved its record to 23-14 after defeating Stevensville Lakeshore 7-5 to advance to the Regional round this Saturday against Wayland at Lakeshore.

The Lady Rams cut the Lakeshore lead to 5-3 with a pair of runs in the sixth inning. With two outs and with two runners on-base, senior Grace Strebeck belted a 3-run home run to win the game.

It is South Haven's first district championship since 2018 and another in the career of coach Wilma Wilson who has led South Haven's softball program for more than 30 years.

Molly Verseput earned the win for South Haven, allowing seven hits and five runs over seven innings, striking out two and walking six.

Strebeck had one hit and three RBIs for South Haven. Madi Duda had two hits in four at bats.

South Haven beat Niles 8-1 in a district semifinal game. Reagan Hahn had three hits, all singles, for South Haven.

Verseput allowed six hits and one run over six innings string out nine and walking two. Grieves pitched one inning of no-run ball for South Haven.

South Haven had 12 hits. Duda and Hahn had three hits apiece.

Mattawan baseball team wins district

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan was 3-0 last week to win its baseball district.

The Wildcats won 16-1 in a redistrict over Portage Central behind a strong start on the mound from Kaden Jominy. Kaden allowed one run on three hits and struck out eight in four innings of work.

Maxx Vanantwerp came in and threw two innings, allowing no runs and two hits. Kellan Wilder came in the seventh inning striking out one, throwing only seven pitches. The Wildcats offense was very balanced with 15 hits by 13 different players. Nolan Jominy had two hits with a key triple that scored three runs in a close game early.

District Semi Final vs Kalamazoo Central

Mattawan got the victory 1-0 behind strong pitching performance from Kaden Jominy. He threw six innings, allowing three hits, walking three and striking out 12. Brody Houseman came in for the save striking out two of the three batters he faced.

Kaden and Nolan Jominy had the loan hits for the Wildcats, but an error in the sixth scored Patrick Dougherty for the game's loan run.

District Final vs Loy Norrix 5-0

Brody Houseman threw the first 5 innings allowing 3 hits and striking out 5 in the 5-0 win. Vanantwerp and Walsh threw an inning apiece allowing no runs and no hits. At the plate Brody Houseman helped his own cause with a two-run home run in the first inning which proved to be all we needed. Kaden Jominy also had two hits in the game with a key bunt that scored Dougherty all the way from first base.

The Wildcats play Lowell on Wednesday in Regionals at Portage Northern at 4 p.m.

Lawton golfer qualifies for state

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton's golf team ended the team season coming in ninth out of 22 schools with a 391.

Lawton scores were: Kaedon Miller 83; Levis Brooks 98

Mateo Oertel 105; Mason Mayne 105 and Team 391.

Miller qualifies for this weekend's state finals as an individual golfer.

"Kaedon is the first Lawton player to make the State Finals since I've been back for my second stint as coach...since 2018," coach Barry Shanley said. "In 1996 I started the program at Lawton. This is my 46th season as a high school golf coach. For 14 years at Lawton the first time, where we ended-up at the State Finals 5 of the last 6 seasons. And 9 seasons so far the second time.

"I also coached girls for 8 years at Kalamazoo Hackett. We made the State Finals my last 5 seasons there before the South Haven girls coach died very unexpectedly and my hometown offered me the job, and this fall will be my 15th season there. This is the 20th State Finals for my teams or an individual making the State Finals."

Shanley added:

"This season was actually about the toughest season of them all. In our division of the SAC, four teams had at least two players shooting par golf. Tough nut to crack for a team that was re-tooling. But our scores overall were better than last year and really improved by the Conference Tournament and the Regional. We came in 9th at both events, out of 14 at the conference and out of 22 teams at the Regional. In the regional we defeated a few schools that beat us during the season.

"As for Kaedon, at the Conference Tournament at Beeches in South Haven he shot a sensational 79 in an all-day cold and steady hard rain. And at the Regional at Bedford Valley north of Battle Creek he was already 5 over par after his first 7 holes. I pulled him aside and told him if he could be 5 more overpar for his last 11 holes that would be a score that often makes it to State.... and Bedford is one of the more difficult courses we play. That 83 did it. A funny aside: At each event I watch our players for three holes, then predict their score and only tell them when the round is over. For Kaedon I wrote down 83.)

Thursday, (June 5) Kaedon and I are going up to The Meadows at Grand Valley State for our practice round. And, of course the two-day final is Friday and Saturday.)

Kaedon and I would like to thank the district, especially Athletic Director Chris Richter and Athletic Secretary Amanda Steinke for their tremendous support, above and beyond, for this year."

Paw Paw baseball loses

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's base season ended at 23-11 on Saturday with a 12-2 loss to Three Rivers in the district title game.

Andrew Lehto took the pitching loss for Paw Paw. Hayden Criger, Grant Solander, Landon Bull and Caden Bowen each had a hit.

Paw Paw won a district game over Vicksburg 9-7. Bowen was the winning pitcher.

Remi Dempsey and Hayden Crier drove in two runs apiece for Paw Paw.

The Wolves fell to Vicksburg 5-3 on May 19 in a well played game on both sides 5-3. The Red Wolves held a 3-1 lead heading to the bottom of the fifth before hits started to drop for Vicksburg and they scored four

Bryn Carlson pitched a strong game going five innings, allowing one earned run and had three strikeouts. Landon Buhl pitched a scoreless inning with one strikeout. Gunnar Goodell was 1-for-2 with an RBI and 2 walks. Caden Bowen was 1-2 with a walk and an RBI. Remi Dempsey and Maverick Johnson collected the only other hits.

On May 22, Paw Paw played a home DH against Dowagiac Thursday. In Game1 the Red Wolves scored early and often and came away with a convincing 10-0 win. Getting multi-hit games were Andrew Lehto, Ryan Holmes, Maverick Johnson, and Bryn Carlsen. Lehto was 3-4 with a double and an RBI. Holmes was 3-4 with two doubles, three RBIs, two runs, and a SB. Johnson was 2-4, while Carlsen went 2-for-2 with a double and an RBI. Buhl added a hit and two RBIs.

Goodell added a hit and an RBI. Cowden and Grant Solander also chipped in with singles. "Gunnar was absolutely dealing on the mound," coach Derek Vanderburg said. Goodell threw a six-inning complete game allowing two hits, no earned runs, one walk, and 10 strikeouts.

In Game 2 the bats stayed hot as the Red Wolves completed the sweep 10-2. Holmes, Goodell and Johnson each had multi-hits. Holmes went 2-3, BB, SB, and 3 runs scored. Goodell went 2-3, BB, and two runs scored. Johnson was 4-4 with a triple, four RBIs, and two runs scored. Buhl had a single and two RBIs, while DeYoung added a single and an RBI. Lehto and Bowen each added an RBI. Lehton, Bowen, and Cade dominated on the mound striking out 15 and only allowed two hits.

May 27th away DH vs. Coldwater.

May 31st Districts at Vicksburg vs. Edwardsburg/ Vicksburg winner.

Paw Paw girls are district champs

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's softball team is 33-3 after winning over Otsego 2-1 in 10 innings and 20-0 in four innings over Gull Lake on Saturday.

Paw Paw plays Edwardsburg at 10 a.m. on Saturday in a regional semifinal game at Stevensville.

Against Gull Lake, Paw Paw had an 18-0 hitting advantage. Gull Lake made five errors in the title game.

Paw Paw had eight runs in the first, three in the second, two in the third and four in the fourth.

B. Clemons threw the no-hitter for {w Paw. S. Schafer has four hits and four RBIs. A. Edson had two hits and scored three runs.

Bangor's baseball season ends

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor's baseball season ended on Saturday in the district with a 12-4 loss to Fennville.

Terrance Payne took the pitching loss for Bangor. He went 5.1 innings, giving seven runs on eight hits, striking out eight and walking g one.

Payne and Deondra Hankins had one hit each for Bangor. Jaret McCoy stole two bases.

Last week, Bangor traveled to Cassopolis to finish up conference play. Bangor finished conference going 8-10, the most conference wins since joining the SW10(2018).

In game one, Terrance Payne pitched a solid 5.1 innings giving up 3 earned runs. Offense was led by Carson Pullins, Luke Remington, Terrance Payne, Julian Pullins, and Wyatt Schneider all collecting hits.

Jaret McCoy took the win going five innings with 6 Ks. Offense was led by Carson, Terrance, Julian, Deondre Hankins, and Jaxon Webb.

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VIEWPOINT

Emphasis on education in 2026 election

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Rick Snyder's Vision for Education: A Bold Step for the 2026 Election

Championing the Future of Learning

In the rapidly shifting landscapes of politics and policy, it is rare to encounter a leader who prioritizes the foundational pillars of society—education being chief among them. Rick Snyder's initiative to focus on education in the 2026 election is nothing short of visionary. As former governor Snyder's renewed commitment to uplifting students, educators, and the broader educational ecosystem deserves not just recognition but wholehearted support. He hopes to raise between $20-$30 million to make the election about Michigan's K-12 education problems.

Essentially what he plans to do is offer a ballot initiative to force the state to adopt reforms deployed by Florida, Tennessee and Mississippi, which have dramatically improved those state's schools.

A Timely Focus on Education

Education has always been a cornerstone of progress, yet it is often relegated to the back burner amidst debates on economic, healthcare, and defense policies. Snyder's choice to place education at the forefront of his agenda signals not only political acumen but also a deep understanding of what truly drives long-term societal growth. By investing in education, Snyder proposes to tackle systemic inequalities, empower the next generation, and ensure that the workforce of tomorrow is both skilled and adaptable.

This focus is just what the doctor ordered. Michigan statistically is not good when ranked against other states. Michigan is 44th in overall school performance; 27th in per pupil funding; 44th for high school graduation rate; 37th in fourth grade math; 44th in fourth grade reading; 33rd in eighth grade math and 31st in eighth grade reading.

I'm shocked at the 44th overall ranking. That's simply not acceptable.

Addressing Challenges with Pragmatic Solutions

The educational challenges facing the nation are daunting. From underfunded schools to the achievement gap, and from teacher shortages to the lack of access to modern learning tools, the hurdles are myriad. Yet, Snyder's track record suggests he is well-equipped to navigate these complexities. His data-driven approach to governance, combined with an emphasis on efficiency and results, hints at a future where education policies are not just aspirational but actionable.

Snyder's initiative places emphasis on equitable funding for schools—a matter of urgent importance. By ensuring that every student receives the resources they need regardless of socioeconomic background, he aims to level the playing field. Furthermore, his vision includes enhancing STEM education, integrating technology into classrooms, and ensuring that every child graduates not just with knowledge but with practical skills to thrive in a competitive global economy

Fostering Innovation in Learning

Snyder's education agenda goes beyond traditional models of learning, embracing innovation as a catalyst for transformation. His vision for modernizing curriculums to include coding, artificial intelligence, and digital literacy promises to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Snyder's initiative also highlights the importance of collaborative partnerships between schools, businesses, and universities to create a pipeline of talent that aligns with market demands.

Future-Proofing the Workforce

By making education a primary focus, Snyder is effectively future-proofing the workforce. His emphasis on vocational training and apprenticeships bridges the gap between academia and industry, ensuring that graduates are job-ready from day one. This alignment between education and employment addresses skill shortages and positions the nation as a leader in innovation and productivity.

A Legacy Worth Building

Rick Snyder's initiative is not merely a campaign promise; it is a blueprint for a brighter future. His dedication to education reflects a belief in the potential of every child and the transformative power of learning. It is a call to action for voters, policymakers, and communities to rally behind a vision that prioritizes growth through enlightenment.

One gubernatorial candidate that seems to agree with Snyder, is Detroit Mayor Michael Duggan who is running as an independent. I have been impressed with the way he has run Detroit and suspect he might make a good governor.

Duggan in his keynote address to the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac policy conference chided both Republicans and Democrats in ignoring education reform. "Failing schools are a problem throughout Michigan."

In an era where political discourse is often divisive and shortsighted, Snyder's focus on education stands out as refreshingly constructive. It is a reminder that the true measure of a leader lies in their commitment to empowering others, and Rick Snyder's initiative promises to empower an entire generation. As the 2026 election approaches, one can only hope that his vision inspires not just votes but a nationwide movement to put education first. After all, the future of the nation depends on the minds we nurture today.

Truck driver faces OUIL charge in truck/tractor crash

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a truck versus tractor crash in Decatur Township. The investigation showed that a tractor pulling a disc was struck by the pickup truck. The driver of the truck was found to be intoxicated and was transported to the Van Buren County Jail on a charge of operating under the influence of alcohol. There were no injuries from the crash.

Uniform Response went to a Waverly Township residence with CPS (Child Protective Services). After being at the residence, an individual was transported to the Van Buren County Jail for a bond violation.

Uniform Response went to a residence in Columbia Township to assist Allegan County Sheriff's Office on a complaint they were working. The individuals they were looking for were at the residence along with a stolen car. The individuals were transported to the Allegan County Jail and the stolen vehicle was recovered and taken as well.

Uniform Response handled an MDOP (malicious destruction of property) in Hamilton Township. It was found that an individual on a dark quad went into an asparagus field and caused damage. Anyone with any information on this is asked to call the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office at (269) 657-3101.

"Uniform Response assisted Postal Police on the east side of our county. The two individuals being investigated ran and weren't caught at the time. The suspects are believed to be from another state," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault in the Village of Lawrence. "The suspect wasn't cooperative with deputies and became aggressive toward them. After being tazed, he was put into custody," said Sheriff Abbott. The suspect was transported to the Van Buren County Jail for domestic violence and R and O (resisting and obstructing).

Uniform Response handled a neighbor dispute in Hartford Township. "It was found through the investigation a verbal argument took place, and one of the neighbors threatened to shoot the other one. The suspect did shoot a gun off during the incident according to the caller/victim," said Sheriff Abbott. He added, "During the investigation, deputies located a short-barreled shotgun with the serial number filed off in the suspects residence. It was also discovered the suspect could not legally be in possession of a firearm. The suspect was transported to the Van Buren County Jail on several charges from the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Detectives and Uniform Response assisted in Cass County with a stolen patrol unit from Cassopolis Police Department. The suspect, patrol unit, and firearm from the patrol unit were all found the same day. The suspect was lodged and now faces more charges.

"We participated in the annual sendoff/escort for the Area 17 Special Olympics as they traveled to Mount Pleasant for their competition. It's always a great time hanging out with them prior to the escort and wishing them well. A big thank you to the Knights of Columbus in Paw Paw for hosting the lunch and setting up the sendoff every year, I know it means a lot for our athletes," said Sheriff Abbott.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter writer's facts are fiction

Dear Editor,

I agree, Mr. Wilcox, open the Epstein files! Why the focus on the Kennedy assassinations, only to the pain of their families, while ignoring the unfinished business of the Epstein case? I don't have a lot of confidence in this administration to take that bold step at holding sexual predators accountable, but it is worth shouting from the rooftops!!

The real reason I'm prompted to write to you today is to respond to (another) letter from John R. Young in the May 15, 2025 edition of the Allegan County News. Mr. Young, you speak as if your opinions are facts. If only wishing so would make that true. My first thought was that maybe you should go back to whatever was making you "foggy" in your youth and forgo the Kool-Aid you're guzzling as you age! LOL No question, from all of your correspondence, you have consumed a lot of it, and it's not likely you would be deterred from your opinions with any volume of facts or opposing perspectives. However, by your own choice, you have submitted your opinions for publication, and so I feel I must address them.

•Why are you comparing a national monument to a piece of artwork in NYC by Times Square Arts? (Not a big issue for me, but not a very intelligent showing for you.)

•You follow your description of the statue: "an anonymous, 12' overweight, angry black woman" with "This kind of says it all, doesn't it?" Yes, Mr. Young, it says all I need to know about YOU. As you proceed in your letter on this topic, accusing others of "wallowing in their white guilt," it is apparent that you are the one who carries some guilt. I wouldn't believe there were people that held prejudice, like yours, if I didn't read it in the little old Allegan County News. You're behaving like a bigot, Mr. Young, and no amount of projection will change that truth.

•So happy you have "pictures" of the protests so you can pass judgment on those attending and exercising their First Amendment right. I'm so sorry that you care so little about our Constitution and would lower yourself to being so hateful, judgmental, and bitter. There is not one party that is more right or wrong than the other, and we do have room for both in this country. The freedoms afforded in our Constitution are there because of people like YOU.

•I applaud every person who pulled out their protest signs to fight on behalf of our young people, to give them the kind of country where opportunity exists for all. You may want to alienate people from those rights, you sure support the activities that are doing so, but we won't let you get away with that so easily. Gear up, Mr. Young, you're in for a lot more demonstrations!!

•If you are the example of conservatism in "America," then I see no heart in the movement regardless of what age. No opportunity, no freedom, no equality, and no investment in our future. The quote you share is questionable in origin and accuracy. It cannot be traced specifically to an individual, and the specific wording is questionable. I'm glad it fits your narrative and that you have something to sound like a "fact". According to your quote, it appears that as we age, you believe we become less ethical? You can have a heart and a brain, Mr. Young. The two are not mutually exclusive.

•So, are you telling me that "conservative values" include:

•Name-calling and bullying people who disagree?

•Refusing to follow the Constitutional checks and balances, most recently ignoring a 9-0 Supreme Court Decision?

•Anti-business policies, changing on a daily basis, such as attacks on specific businesses, industries, and blanket tariffs?

•Flip-flopping on policy so frequently that it is clear there is no plan.

•A fiscally irresponsible "big beautiful budget bill" adding to the debt

•Avoiding accountability for National Security "leaks"

•Arranging meme coins to allow for bribes from foreign leaders directly into the pockets of the Administration

•Eliminating the requirement that foreign visitors must register when here on business

•What is the point? You have shown on a regular basis that you are immune to fact and totally brainwashed by your sources. Is it because you are a small business? Small trucking company?

Bless you, Mr. Young.

Respectfully, Annie Louis

Vote the rascals out

To Mike, The Editor

The interest payments on the national debt now cost more than 1 trillion dollars a year. That is more than our nation spends on the Department of Defense. Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, just passed by the House of Representatives, will add more than 6 trillion dollars to that debt in the next few years.

Why? Do the rich need more tax breaks? Medicare is being gutted. Veterans' benefits are being reduced or eliminated. Research on cancer cures is being eliminated. According to the recent legislation, background checks and registration for gun suppressors are no longer required. Many disabled persons presently receiving Medicare assistance will lose that insurance.

I cannot begin to list all the changes included in the Big Beautiful Bill that will hurt ordinary U.S. citizens, simply to give more tax breaks to the ultra-rich.

There is an election for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in Michigan in 2026. Remember all those who voted to pass the Big Beautiful Bill. If you agree with the Big Beautiful Bill, vote accordingly.

If you disagree with the recent actions of the U.S. House of Representatives, VOTE THE RASCALS OUT!

Robert G. Beck

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Publisher - Mike Wilcox
Graphics- Liz LaValle
Reporter - Paul Garrod & James Windell
IT - Jordan Wilcox
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OBITUARIES

Dean Ned Maxam

Dean Ned Maxam, 80, passed away peacefully at his home, May 24, 2025, surrounded by his loving family and friends. Born in Oshtemo, Michigan, May 7, 1945, Dean was the son of Lowell Sr. and Margaret Maxam.

Dean was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. He shared 53 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Paulette Maxam (Treat). Together, they raised four children, Rex (Lisa) Schultz of New Braunfels, Texas, Toby Maxam of Mattawan, Michigan, the late Richard Maxam, and Brandy (Keith) Paddock of Hampshire, Illinois. His children were not only the pride of his life, they were his best friends.

Dean was affectionately known as “Pops” to his extended family, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, a name that reflected his humorous, loving, and playful spirit.

Dean is also survived by his siblings,Lowell Maxam, Jr., Karin Tarantino, and Doug (Rose) Maxam.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Jan Barbee and Lynn Jager; his brother, David Maxam; his son, Richard Maxam; and his two great-grandchildren, Elliot and Evelyn Blackport.

He was a proud grandfather to six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, all of whom brought him great joy. Dean was also a favorite uncle to many nieces and nephews who cherished his kindness and humor.

Dean’s greatest passions were behind the wheel of his truck and cradling a newborn. For over 30 years, he was a long-haul truck driver, finding freedom and joy in the open road. Dean loved the solitude and adventure of driving, but perhaps even more, he cherished the conversations and friendships he formed along the way. His truck was more than a job, it was a place where stories were shared, and laughter echoed. Dean never met a stranger; once you met him, you had a friend for life.

Alongside his love for the road, Dean had a special gift for holding babies. His gentle hands and warm heart made every infant feel safe and loved. Family and friends often remarked how he lit up whenever he was around little ones, proudly doting on each new generation.

Dean had a lifelong love of music and was known for telling captivating backstories about his favorite artists. The TV was always on mute in his home, while music played constantly in the garage, inside the house, and all through the night in his bedroom. Music was a constant companion that brought him joy and comfort throughout his life.

Dean’s easygoing charm, quick wit, and generous spirit made him a friend to all. Whether on the highway, on his bike, or at a family gathering, he was always ready with a story, a smile, and an open heart.

Dean also had a deep love for Harley-Davidsons, embracing the thrill of the ride and the sense of freedom it brought. His love of motorcycles was more than a hobby; it was a way of life. Riding his Harley-Davidson gave him a sense of freedom and exhilaration that matched the open highway he loved so much. Whether cruising the back roads or embarking on long rides, the motorcycle was a source of joy and peace for Dean, connecting him with the spirit of adventure he carried throughout his life.

A visitation was held May 31, at Adams Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 502 W Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, where a family visitation was held prior to a public visitation, followed by a service to celebrate Dean’s life.

He will be deeply missed.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Dr. Edward W. Lean, Jr.

Dr. Edward W. Lean, Jr., unexpectedly went to meet his God on May 23, 2025. Husband, father, brother, doctor and Colonel were many of the roles he served touching the lives of numerous individuals. He was born Dec. 22, 1940, to Edward W. Lean and Hilda Raby Lean in South Bend, IN.

He was a proud alumnus of Old Riley High School and continued his education at the University of Chicago. Ted, as family and friends knew him, graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and came to Kalamazoo, MI to do his internship at Borgess Hospital. It was there he met a young nurse who captured his heart, Yvonne Annette Korabik, and they were wed on May 11, 1968, and were together for 57 years. Shortly after this, Ted served honorably in the United States Army, being stationed at Schofield Barracks, Fort Dix, and Fort Benning before taking a hiatus from the military in 1973.

In 1974, he moved with his wife and three young children to a small farming community in Southwest Michigan where he would live the rest of his life. He began as a Family Physician at 305 Oak St., and watched as the practice and community grew. He also saw his family grow with the birth of his last child, his daughter Susie. He practiced in Paw Paw for many years touching countless lives and as the director of Hope Nursing Home and then Bronson Commons. During this period, he was moved to serve his country again and joined the USAR. As a reservist he participated in humanitarian missions in Central America and in Europe with Operation Joint Endeavor in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. He retired from the USAR in 2000 as a colonel, proud to have served his country faithfully.

While all of this was happening in his professional life, he was greatly involved in his other passions, his family and his land. He tried his best to always be home for dinner and his children fondly remember him reading Tarzan novels to them before bed. They do not as fondly remember the many hours spent clearing brush, planting trees and plants, mowing, spraying and making his yard and land a little piece of paradise. He could often be found after work or weekends with his pruners and cart going to work in another area, the work was never done. He became a Master Gardener and Master Woodsman, and his love of nature was passed to his children. He attended his children’s sporting events, even though he was not always sure what was going on, and other activities as time allowed.

A shining moment in his life was when he became a Catholic in 2022. His faith became a beacon for him and support as he dealt with life’s challenges. He could be often found reading about Pope Francis and other books of faith, to the point we joked that the Conclave may call him in.

Ted was preceded in death by a son, David Edward, and a daughter, Amy.

He is survived by his wife Yvonne; son, Eric (Alicia), their daughters, Alyssandra and Madelyn; son, John (Marci) with children David, Laura, William and Henry; daughter, Susie (Bret) Flanders and their sons, Gabriel and Benjamin; a sister, Barbara Pogoni; as well as cousins, relatives by marriage and many nieces and nephews.

Ted will be missed dearly, but we know he is at peace with his Lord and his example will continue to be a source of strength for those who knew him and know he is forever in our hearts.

Family and friends were invited to visit Sunday, June 1, at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A Rosary service was held that night. Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, June 2, at Saint Mary Catholic Church, 209 N. Brown St., Paw Paw.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations and memorials be made to St. Mary Church, Paw Paw, or the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at: www.adamspawpaw.com

Mark Koziol

Mark Koziol, 61, passed away peacefully, May 17, 2025, after a courageous seven-month battle with terminal cancer. Born Feb. 15, 1964, he was a quiet, inventive soul who found joy in fixing things, working with computers, and caring deeply for those he loved.

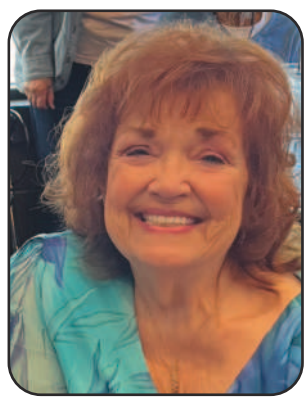
He was preceded in death by his father, Frank, and brother, Stanley.

Mark is survived by his mother, Elizabeth; siblings, Marsha, Christine, Frances, and Eugene; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Friday, May 30, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Paw Paw.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at:adamspawpaw.com.

Darlene Ellen (Darling) Begeman



December 17, 1945 – May 19, 2025

Darlene Ellen (Darling) Begeman, 79, of Mattawan, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 19, 2025, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was born on December 17, 1945, in St. Joseph, Michigan, to William Earl Darling Sr. and Dorthy Ellen (Sparrow) Darling.

Darlene grew up in Gobles, Michigan, where she graduated from high school. It was there she met the love of her life, Duane Begeman, on a blind date in May 1962. The couple married on May 23, 1964, at the Methodist Church in Gobles. Just shy of celebrating 61 years of marriage, Darlene and Duane built a life full of love and devotion.

After Duane was drafted into the Army in March 1964, the couple relocated to Fort Hood, Texas, where their first son, Randy, was born. In 1973, they settled in Almena Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, where they welcomed two more sons, Brian and Craig. Darlene and Duane remained lifelong residents of Almena Township, living in the same cherished family home for over five decades.

Throughout her career, Darlene worked at Pemco Wheel and Allen Test Products in Kalamazoo. She deeply valued the time spent with family and friends. She found joy in watching hummingbirds, listening to Elvis Presley, and, most of all, supporting her grandchildren, whom she never missed a chance to cheer on. She was truly their biggest fan.

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents, William Earl Darling Sr. and Dorthy (Sparrow) Darling.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 60 years, Duane Begeman;
Her children: Randy (Chris) Begeman, and grandchildren Megan (Matt) Miller, Greg (Alyssa) Begeman—who are expecting Darlene’s first great-grandchild—Jacob Begeman, and Jessica (Hunter) Blake, Brian (Luann) Begeman, and grandson Mitchell (Cass) Begeman, and Emma Begeman, Craig (Jeanine) Begeman, and children Evan Begeman, Jay Begeman, and stepchildren Riley Patterson and Lukas Patterson

She is also survived by her siblings: William (Peggy) Darling Jr. of Federal Way, Washington, June (Darling) Johnson of Battle Creek, Michigan

A memorial gathering to honor Darlene’s life will be held at a later date. Details will be announced.

PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE OF HEARING TO RENEW TOWNSHIP-WIDE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

FOR FIRE PROTECTION

The Porter Township Board, having previously established a township-wide Special Assessment District for the cost of fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and fire protection, **HEREBY sets a public hearing for Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:40 p.m. at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan.**

The Porter Township Board will be in session to discuss and hear comments which may be offered regarding the re-affirmation of the township-wide special assessment in the amount of 1.5 mil (one and one-half mil), for the cost and expenses of the fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and fire protection. The nature of the improvement to be made is such that a periodic redetermination of cost and renewal of the levy shall be made on an annual basis.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township Hall at (269) 624-4022.

Dated: May 14, 2025
Heather Smith, Clerk, Porter Township

PORTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE OF HEARING TO REAFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP-WIDE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

FOR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ROADS LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP

The Porter Township Board, having previously established a township-wide Special Assessment District for the cost of construction, improvement, and maintenance of public roads located in the township, **HEREBY sets a public hearing for Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:50 p.m. at the Porter Township Hall, 88040 M-40 Highway, Lawton, Michigan.**

The Porter Township Board will be in session to discuss and hear comments which may be offered regarding the re-affirmation of the township-wide special assessment in the amount of 1.0 mil (one mil), for the construction, improvement and maintenance of public roads located in the township. The nature of the improvement to be made is such that a periodic redetermination of cost and renewal of the levy shall be made on an annual basis.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township Hall at (269) 624-4022.

Dated: May 14, 2025
Heather Smith, Clerk, Porter Township

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PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
IN THE MATTER OF THE MARY KATHLEEN MOORE,
Date of Birth May 18,1940 (5/18/1940)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Mary Kathleen Moore died April 21,2025 (04/21/2025).**
There is no personal representative of the deceden'ts estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to Kelly J. Smith, Trustee of the Mary Kathleen Moore Trust, under a Trust Agreement dated July 25,2013, as amended by a First Amendement on August 30,2023, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 5,2025

Attorney
Miller Johnson
Teresa Rajala #P83305
100 W. Michigan Ave., Ste 200
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-226-2950
Personal Representative
Kelly J. Smith
50515 CR 384
Grand Junction, MI 4956
269-352-1723

New CCS Pub -> County: Van Buren; Mtgr: PNC Bank v. David Holzworth; Atty: Trott Law P.C. - Trott Law P.C.; 1st Pub: 5/1/2025; Atty File #: 499675L03; Insurer: (unknown)
VAN BUREN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 24-074232-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 26th of June, 2025 at 1:00 pm, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: The Subject Property is situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: Lot 26, Block 2, Sandy Beach, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 13, Van Buren County Records More commonly known as: 93140 Gravel Lake Dr., Lawton, MI 49065-8429 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: April, 21, 2025 Trott Law, P.C.
1559666

(05-01)(06-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Ernest Cramer; Atty: Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. - Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.; 1st Pub: 5/15/2025; Atty File #: 25-000354-1; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM a.m./p.m. on June 12, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ernest Cramer of Van Buren County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 9th day of February, 2011, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on the 24th day of February, 2011, Liber 1546, Page 347, of the Van Buren County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $28,357.61 plus accrued interest at 8.75000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Antwerp, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Situated in the Township of Antwerp, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN SECTION 20, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, TOWNSHIP OF ANTWERP,COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF M-119 HIGHWAY AND THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER BEING 280.88 FEET EAST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY 99 FEET THENCE NORTHEASTERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES 132 FEET THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL TO SAID HIGHWAY 251.1 FEET TO THE 1/8 LINE THENCE WEST ON 1/8 LINE 201.38 FEET TO BEGINNING. ALSO, BEGINNING 99 FEET NORTHWESTERLY FROM THE INTERSECTION NORTH LINE M-119 HIGHWAY AND THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER IN SECTION 20 THENCE NORTHWESTERLY 89.15 FEET NORTHERLY AT RIGHT TINGLES 132 FEET SOUTHERLY 89.15 FEET SOUTHWESTERLY 132 FEET TO BEGINNING. Commonly known as: 62941 N M40 Highway, Lawton, MI 49065 Tax ID: 80-02-020-039-10 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: May 15, 2025 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 25-000354-1

(05-15)(06-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Marcela Tellez; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 5/22/2025; Atty File #: 523981F01; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on June 26, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Marcella Tellez and Rene Tellez
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 9, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 15, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $323,123.01
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 15, Hall's Subdivision, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 41, Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 33207 Bernice Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9504
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: May 22, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1562128

(05-22)(06-12)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Kevin M Smith; Atty: BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS - Brock & Scott PLLC MI; 1st Pub: 5/29/2025; Atty File #: 25-12656; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Smith to American Advisors Group dated June 6, 2022 and recorded June 13, 2022 in Liber 1739 at Page 520, Van Buren County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $56,440.01. Said premises are located in Van Buren County, Michigan and are described as: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 19 AND THE NORTH 30 FEET OF LOT 20, FOWLER'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW. Being the same property conveyed to Kevin M. Smith, a single man from Michael T. Smith and Kevin M. Smith, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Fern E. Smith, deceased, Van Buren county probate Court File No. 20081133DE by Quit Claim Deed dated April 15, 2009 and recorded April 16, 2009 among the Land Records of Van Buren County, State of Michigan in Book 1517, Page 469 Instrument No. 3198477. Tax Account #: 80-41-200-019-00 Said property is commonly known as 209 S State St, Paw Paw, MI 49079. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: May 20, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-12656

(05-29)(06-19)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen; Atty: QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER - QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER; 1st Pub: 6/5/2025; Atty File #: MI-005529-25; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen a/k/a Gerrit P. Oppenhuizen, the original Mortgagor; and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, the original Mortgagee; dated May 16, 2016, and recorded on May 18, 2016, in Liber 1636, at Page 341, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan; and last assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the Foreclosing Assignee; as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 2, 2019, and recorded on August 7, 2019, in Liber 1687, at Page 614, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-One and 55/100 U.S. Dollars ($60,581.55). Said premise is situated at 11111 32nd Street, Gobles, MI 49055, in the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and is described as: LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE 979.09 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SECTION LINE 340.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 385.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 340.25 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST 385.28 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 05/27/2025 For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-005529-25

(06-05)(06-26)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Stephen E. Tolen; Atty: ANDREW BARNES - ANDREW BARNES; 1st Pub: 6/5/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL CREDITORS: The Decedent, Stephen E. Tolen, whose last known address was 325 Superior Street, South Haven, MI 49090, died December 11, 2024. There is no Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent's estate will be forever barred unless presented to Sarah Reintjes-Tolen and Diane Nason, Co-Trustees of The Stephen E. Tolen Trust Dated September 27, 2024, within four months after the date of this publication. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Dated: May 29, 2025 Sarah Reintjes-Tolen and Diane Nason, Co-Trustees of The Stephen E. Tolen Trust Dated September 27, 2024 6287 Siler City Glendon Rd. Siler City, NC 27344 Attorney for Co-Trustees: Andrew W. Barnes (P70571) Butzel Long, P.C. 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 (269) 287-2010

(06-05)

STATE OF MICHIGAN 36th CIRCUIT COURT – Van Buren County, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079; 269-657-8200. To: ARNULFO VENTURA JOSE In Re: ALICIA SANTOS GONZALEZ v. ARNULFO VENTURA JOSE. Case No. 25-074580-DP.
TAKE NOTICE: A Request for Default Entry was filed on May 8, 2025, requesting the clerk to enter the default of Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend as provided by law and stating that the Defendant is not an infant or incompetent person or in the military service. The clerk approved the default entry on May 12, 2025, stating that the default of the Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend is entered. A Motion for Entry of Default Judgment was then filed on June 2, 2025, requesting the court to grant Plaintiff sole legal and physical custody of the minor child of the parties, award Defendant no parenting time, and reserve child support. A Motion for Special Determinations on the Issue of Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification was also filed on June 2, 2025, requesting the court to find that the minor child is under the age of 21, is made dependent on the 36th Circuit Court, her reunification with Defendant is not viable due to neglect and abandonment, and it is not in her best interest to be returned to her country of nationality. A hearing will be held on June 23, 2025, at 11:30 am before Judge Dufon to adjudicate the Motion for Entry of Default Judgment and Motion for Special Determinations. The result of a failure to answer or appear may be to bar or affect the person's interest in the matter.

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danny J Clendenin; Atty: ALAW - ALAW; 1st Pub: 6/5/2025; Atty File #: 24-031214; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on July 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagors: Danny J & Angelene Clendenin, a husband and wife Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: March 13, 2012 Recorded on March 15, 2012, Book 1563, on Page 519. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine and 30/100 Dollars ($131,789.30) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County and described as: LOT 32, WOODHENGE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 6 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 27, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Commonly known as 22327 Woodhenge Dr, Mattawan MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031214

(06-05)(06-26)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that *The Shed Self Storage*, *phone (269) 200-2156,* located at *72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065* will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at *www.StorageAuctions.com.* Auction will close on or after *Wednesday June 25, 2025 at 10:00 am.* The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold:
Robin Scott

LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET AND THE PROPOSED 2025-26 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 16, 2024, at six o'clock p.m., in Lawton, Michigan, the Board of Education of Lawton Community Schools will hold a public meeting to consider the District's proposed amendment of the 2024-25 budget and the proposed 2025-26 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-26 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 101 Primary Way, Lawton, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Larissa Hunt Secretary

CITY OF GOBLES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gobles City Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed city budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Gobles City Hall, 105 E. Main St., Gobles, MI on June 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. local time. The property tax millage rate to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at Gobles City Hall.
Services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of the printed materials being considered at the meeting will be available to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) days notice to the Gobles City Hall. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Gobles City Clerk at 105 E. Main St., Gobles, MI (269) 628-2246.

Paula Sipes
Gobles City Clerk
269.628.2246

NOTICE OF VILLAGE OF DECATUR PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that a Public Hearing/ Regular Planning Commission Meeting will be held by the Planning Commission on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Decatur Village Hall located at 114 North Phelps Street within the Village.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that the item(s) to be considered at this Public Hearing include, in brief, the following:**

Consider amending the Village of Decatur Zoning Ordinance Sections 42-9 and add a new zoning Section 42-20 to Chapter 42, Article 1, of the Village of Decatur Code of Ordinances to regulate Short-Term Rentals.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments may also be submitted in advance of the meeting and delivered to Village Hall, or may be e-mailed to the Clerk at mduncan@decaturmi.us

Comments and questions can be directed to:
Village of Decatur:
Megan Duncan, Village Clerk/Treasurer
114 N. Phelps Street
Decatur, MI 49045
(269) 423-6114

The Village of Decatur will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at this meeting upon four (4) days' notice to the Village Clerk.

2024 Water Quality Report for the Village of Paw Paw

Water Supply Serial Number: MI0005210 completed 5-21-2025 BH

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Village of Paw Paw for the **2024** calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in **2024.** Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from three groundwater wells, each over 110, 160, and 178 feet deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderately low for wells #6 & #8, and moderately high for back-up well #4.

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by participating in the State of Michigan Wellhead Protection Program and following the EGLE annual drinking water monitoring schedule.

If you would like to know more about the report, please contact Tim Brandys, Department of Public Services Director, 110 Harry L. Bush Blvd, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079, phone number 269-657-3169. Copies are available at the Paw Paw Village Hall. The report is also posted on the Village's Website, www.pawpaw.net (click on the left hand menu item titled Public Services and then click on the item titled "Consumer Confidence Report 2024). This report is not being mailed to all water customers.

Contaminants and their presence in water: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

Vulnerability of sub-populations: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

Sources of drinking water: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants,** such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides,** which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants,** which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants,** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2024 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED BELOW:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **N/A:** Not applicable
- **ND:** not detectable at testing limit
- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A study of the water supply to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

1Monitoring Data for Regulated Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	4.7	4.7-4.7	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.160	0.160-0.160	2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND	N/A	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.180	0.000-0.180	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium[1] (ppm)	N/A	N/A	27	20-27	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	20	N/A	2024	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine[2] (ppm)	4	4	0.49	0.29-0.73	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	1.3	0-1.3	2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	0.578	0.458-.578	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform (total number or % of positive samples/month)	TT	0	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli in the distribution system (positive samples)	See E. coli note	0	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fecal Indicator – E. coli at the source (positive samples)	TT	0	N/A	N/A	2024	No	Human and animal fecal waste

1Sodium is not a regulated contaminant. 2 The chlorine "Level Detected" was calculated using a running annual average. 3 E.Coli MCL violation occurs if (1) routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E.coli-positive or(2) the supply fails to take all required repeat samples following E. coli-positive routine sample, or (3) the supply fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for E. coli.

E. coli MCL violation occurs if: (1) routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive, or (2) the supply fails to take all required repeatamples following

2The chlorine "Level Detected" was calculated using a running annual average.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)							
Regulated Contaminant	**MCL, TT, or MRDL**	**MCLG or MRDLG**	**Level Detected**	**Range**	**Year Sampled**	**Violation Yes/No**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (ppt)	370	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Firefighting foam; Discharge from electroplating facilities; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	ND	N/A	2024	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments
Inorganic Contaminant Subject to Action Levels (AL)	**Action Level**	**MCLG**	**Your Water**	**Range of Results**	**Year Sampled**	**Number of Samples Above AL**	**Typical Source of Contaminant**
Lead (ppb)	12	0	2	0-4	2022	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.01	0-0.2	2022	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

4 Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

Information about lead: *Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Village of Paw Paw is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Village of Paw Paw Department of Public Services Director, Tim Brandys (269-657-3169) for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

Our water supply has an unknown number of lead service lines at this time. Two hundred service lines of are of unknown material out of a total of 1,120 service lines. In **2024**, 19 services were investigated and replaced. This makes a total of 519 serviced lines replaced and 205 confirmed to be non-lead, thereby not requiring replacement. The village has replaced approximately 70% of service lines to date. This year and following years the Village has an aggressive program to continue service line investigation and replacement.

Monitoring and Reporting to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Requirements: The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all of the monitoring and reporting requirements for **2024**.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at the Paw Paw Village Hall. The report is also posted on the Village's Website, www.pawpaw.net (click on the left hand menu item titled Public Services and then click on the item titled "Consumer Confidence Report **2024)**. This report is not being mailed to all water customers.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. You may contact the Village of Paw Paw Council, which meets the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Paw Paw District Library, 609 West Michigan, Paw Paw, Michigan. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Tim Brandys, Department of Public Services Director, 110 Harry L. Bush Blvd, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079, phone number 269-657-3169. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at http://www.epa.gov/safewater.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN

ORDINANCE NO. 0527-2025

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF FOOD TRUCKS, AND THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, LICENSES, OR APPROVALS FOR THE USE OF FOOD TRUCKS

THE VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Purpose
The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a policy to manage mobile food businesses in the Village of Mattawan (sometimes referred to as the "Village"); to establish a framework to permit and regulate mobile food service providers in the Village; to reduce vehicular and pedestrian traffic congestion; to promote the safe use of streets and sidewalks; and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of the Village of Mattawan.

Section 2. Mobile Food Service Provider Defined
For this Ordinance, unless the context indicates or requires a different meaning, "Mobile Food Service Provider" or "Mobile Food Vehicle" or "Food Truck" means a motorized vehicle which, upon the issuance of a permit by the Village through its designated official, in conformance with the regulations under this Ordinance and state law, may temporarily park upon property in the Village to engage in the preparation, service, sale, or distribution of ready to eat food for individual portion service to the general public directly from the vehicle. A Mobile Food Service Provider or Mobile Food Vehicle are sometimes collectively referred to as a "Mobile Food Provider" or "Food Truck". A Mobile Food Vehicle shall also include a trailer pulled by a motorized vehicle engaged in the preparation, service, sale or distribution of ready-to-eat food for individual portion service to the general public from the trailer. It shall include cookers, grills, smokers or other similar apparatuses contained within or on the trailer. A Mobile Food Provider includes vehicles and trailers which prepare food for sale. Vendors that sell exclusively prepackaged food items such as ice cream trucks. Do not qualify under this Ordinance.

Section 3. Special Event or School Function
For the purposes of this Ordinance, unless the context indicates or requires a different meaning, a "Special Event" means a community sponsored type event in which the sponsor (the "Sponsor") of the event has obtained permission from the Village to hold such an event and a "School Function" means an event sponsored by a school (the "School").

Section 4. Permit Requirements
Except as may otherwise be allowed by this Ordinance, no Mobile Food Provider may engage in the preparation, service, sale, or distribution of food in the Village on public or private property without first obtaining a permit from the Village. The application fee shall be set from time to time by resolution of the Mattawan Village Council. All fees must be paid to the Village Treasurer at the time the application is submitted. All permits must be available on site for inspection upon request by the Village through its designated representative or law enforcement officer.

Section 5. Number of Permits, Duration and Transferability
A. Mobile Food Provider permits shall be issued by the Village. The number of permits to be issued may be limited by a resolution of the Mattawan Village Council. Mobile Food Provider permits shall only be for the length of the permit is issued 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months.
B. Transferability. Each Mobile Food Provider permit is valid only for each individual vehicle or trailer operated by a Mobile Food Provider and shall not be transferred among vehicles or trailers. Permits may not be transferred from the Food Provider to any other entity.

Section 6. Insurance
All Mobile Food Providers who obtain a permit pursuant to Section 4 must obtain and maintain a policy of liability insurance by a company licensed to do business in the State of Michigan and approved by the Village. Insurance coverage must be in the minimum amount of $1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage arising out of the permitted operation, including operation by employees, agents, or independent contractors. Proof of insurance must be provided to the Village before a permit can be granted and thereafter upon request. The insurance policy shall name the Village of Mattawan, its officers, employees, and agents as additional insureds and shall provide that the insurance be primary to any other potential coverage. The policy shall provide a minimum of 30 days prior written notice of revocation, cancellation, or amendment to the Village. All Mobile Food Providers agree to hold harmless and protect the Village of Mattawan and its officers, employees, and agents from any liability, claims, costs, expenses, or attorney fees arising out of the permitted operation provided by this ordinance.

Section 7. Applications
An Application of a person desiring to operate a Mobile Food Provider permit under Section 4 shall provide a written application for such a permit to the Village Office. Applications for a Mobile Food Provider permit shall be on forms provided by the Village (if available) or by written request (if no applications are available) and shall include all of the following:
A. Name, signature, phone number, email contact, and business address of the applicant.
B. Information on the Mobile Food Vehicle including the VIN, year, make and model and its dimensions.
C. Proposed date, hours, and areas of operation for each specific event.
D. A sketch plan showing the location at which the Vehicle shall be used for each specific event and location.
E. Detailed plans for power access, water supply, waste disposal and wastewater disposal.
F. Copies of all necessary licenses and permits issued by the Van Buren County Health Department and/or the State of Michigan. Mobile Food Facility Permit, Public Health Permit, Food Seller's Permit, Employee Health Permit (also known as a Food Handlers License
G. A Certificate of Insurance evidencing coverage consistent with this Ordinance.
H. A signed statement or acknowledgment that the permit holder shall hold harmless the Village, its employees, officers, and agents and shall indemnify the Village, its employees, officers and agents for any claim based on the use of the Mobile Food Provider.
I. Copy of the applicant's state-issued Michigan sales tax license.
J. Any food truck must have a sponsoring entity located within the village limits. Sponsoring entities may include but are not limited to business, schools, churches, special event hosts, community-based organizations and residents. A food truck must be set up in front of or on the property of the sponsoring entity. (Moved here from 12 L.)
K. Pre-packaged food items would fall under the Hawkers, Peddlers, and Solicitors Ordinance. (Ice cream trucks)

Section 8. Regulations

A. Section 4 Permits. All of the following regulations must be followed at all times by any Mobile Food Provider who obtains a permit pursuant to Section 4 and/or who operates in the Village:
1. Mobile Food Providers may conduct business only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. unless the Village provides written permission to conduct business during other hours. Cleanup Requirement: All equipment and waste must be cleaned up and removed by the end of the business day.
a. Mobile food units shall not be allowed to park overnight.
2. A valid permit must be presented promptly for inspection or examination when requested by the Village, or law enforcement officer. The failure to present a valid permit will require that the Mobile Food Provider cease its operations until a permit can be provided.
3. A Mobile Food Provider shall not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. If directed by the Village's representative or law enforcement officer, the Mobile Food Provider shall promptly relocate.
4. The operator of a Mobile Food Provider shall direct exhaust away from the service side of the vehicle.
5. A Mobile Food Provider shall only serve customers while parked.
6. A Mobile Food Provider shall serve customers only on the curb, lawn, or sidewalk side of the Mobile Food Service Vehicle while in an authorized parking space.
7. No Mobile Food Service Vehicle shall be in motion while food preparation devices are in use (e.g., fryers, stoves, faucets, etc.).
8. A Mobile Food Provider shall be completely self-contained and is prohibited from utilizing any municipally owned utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical outlets, hydrants, or sewers.
9. No Mobile Food Service Vehicle shall be left unattended while food is in the vehicle or the food preparation devices are in use (e.g., fryers, stoves, faucets, etc.).
10. A Mobile Food Provider shall keep the area in which it operates free of trash, clean, and tidy. The Mobile Food Provider shall place at least one trash receptacle immediately outside the Mobile Food Service Vehicle, in plain sight at all times. The receptacle shall not overflow and shall be emptied at an appropriate trash collection location as needed. No liquid waste of any kind may be emptied into municipal storm or sanitary sewers.
11. Mobile Food Providers shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in licensing or permit requirements including, but not limited to, those issued by Van Buren County, the Van Buren County Health Department or the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development or any successor agency, the Michigan Secretary of State, and any other agency with licensing or regulatory jurisdiction over the Mobile Food Provider, a Mobile Food Service Vehicle or the services provided by a food vendor.
12. No Mobile Food Provider shall make or cause to be made any unreasonable or excessive noise, including by the use of a generator. Excess noise shall be considered noise of more than 75 decibels measured at 25 feet of the originating source. The operation of all Mobile Food Vehicles shall meet any noise ordinance imposed by the Village.
13. All signage for the Mobile Food Provider must only appear directly on the Mobile Food Service Vehicle. No additional signage is permitted.
14. There shall be no flashing, blinking or ultra-bright lights allowed on Mobile Food Service Vehicles or related signage. All exterior lights over 60 watts shall contain opaque hood shields directing illumination downward.No lines,
15. wires, cables, or other hazards may be extended across any street, alley, or sidewalk in the Village. Allowed with approved ADA covers over them to protect from trips and falls, that must be approved prior to operation.
16. Mobile Food Providers permitted under this Ordinance may operate on private or publicly owned property (e.g., open spaces, parks, streets, and rights-of-way) in accordance with the terms of their permit.
17. Any Mobile Food Provider desiring to locate in a public park shall comply with all Village regulations for parks and recreational spaces.
18. Mobile Food Vehicles, when parked on public streets, shall be parked in conformance with all applicable parking restrictions, and shall not hinder the lawful parking or operation of other vehicles.Mobile Food Providers shall not be located twenty-five (25) feet of a permanent business with a food license during that business' normal hours of operation, unless waived by the owner of the business in the form of a writing provided by the business to the Village.
19. Mobile Food Providers shall not operate outside of the locations designated by this Ordinance, or in areas not authorized under the required permit.
20. No Mobile Food Provider shall operate within five hundred (500) feet of any fair, festival, civic event, or other special event that is licensed or sanctioned by the Village, unless the Mobile Food Provider has obtained in writing the permission of the event sponsor.
21. No Mobile Food Provider shall operate within sixty (60) feet of any intersection.
22. Sponsoring entities may block off no more than two public parking spaces no earlier than two hours prior to the start of the event.

B. Special Events and School Functions. Mobile Food Providers at a School Function or Special Event shall adhere to the rules and requirements described in this Ordinance, as well as additional rules and requirements adopted by the sponsor of the special event or the school.

Section 9. Impoundment
Any equipment associated with the Mobile Food Vehicle that is not in compliance with this Ordinance and is left on public property may be impounded at the owner's sole expense.

Section 10. Written Complaints
If a written complaint is filed with the Village alleging that a Mobile Food Provider or a Mobile Food Vehicle permitted pursuant to Section 4 has violated the provisions of this ordinance, the Village shall promptly send a copy of the written complaint and a notice of investigation to the Mobile Food Provider at the address provided in the permit application. If the Village and/or a law enforcement officer, after reviewing all materials, finds the complaint to be supported by a preponderance of the evidence, the complaint shall be certified. A certified complaint may give rise to revocation, suspension, or non-renewal.

Section 11. Revocation and Appeal
Once a permit has been issued under Section 4, it may be revoked, suspended, or not renewed by the Village for failure to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance or any rules or regulations promulgated by the Village. The Village shall revoke the permit of any Mobile Food Provider engaged in mobile food vending who intentionally fails to meet any requirement of this Ordinance or intentionally violates any other federal, state, or local law, ordinance, or regulation; makes a false statement on their application; or conducts their business in a manner adverse to the public health, safety or welfare of the Village and its residents. Immediately upon revocation, the Village shall provide written notice to the permit holder by certified mail to the address indicated on the application. The permit shall become immediately null and void upon revocation. If a permit is denied or revoked by the Village or if a written complaint is certified pursuant to this Ordinance, the applicant or permit holder may appeal to the Village Council in writing, at which point the Village Council shall make a written determination on the validity of the denial, revocation or complaint after reviewing all evidence related to the appeal. The Village Council shall consider whether the decision is supported by a preponderance of the evidence and, if so, it shall be sustained. The applicant or permit holder may appeal the decision of the Village Council to a court of competent jurisdiction in Van Buren County, Michigan.

Section 12. Other Permits
A permit obtained under this Section 4 or the right to operate under Section 2 shall not relieve any Mobile Food Provider of its responsibility for obtaining any other permit or license or authorization required by any other ordinance, statute, law or administrative rule promulgated by any entity with jurisdiction over the location or conduct considered within this Ordinance.

Section 13. Safety Requirements
The operator of a food truck or food trailer is required to adhere to the following requirements in addition to the requirements of any other ordinance and state law for food service:
a. Obtain permits from the Mattawan Fire Department before any permit for use is issued.
b. There shall be no public seating within the food truck or food trailer.
c. A food truck or food trailer in use shall ensure that fire department vehicular access is provided for fire lanes and access roads.
d. A food truck or food trailer in use shall provide clearance for the fire department to access nearby fire hydrants (4 ft radios from center) and access fire department connections (10 ft clear distance from the FDC (Fire Department Connection)
e. A food truck or trailer in use that utilizes combustible media for cooking shall provide an approved fire extinguishing system.
f. A food truck or food trailer in use shall install portable fire extinguishers in kitchen cooking areas in accordance with NFPA 10.
g. A cooking appliance in a food truck or food trailer that produces grease-laden vapors shall be protected by listed fire-extinguishing equipment.
h.
i. A food truck or food trailer in use shall ensure that all workers present are trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers and extinguishing systems.
j. All employees of a food truck or food trailer in use shall know the proper method for shutting off fuel sources; the proper procedure for notifying the local fire department; and the proper procedure for how to perform simple leak tests on gas connections.
k. A food truck or food trailer in use shall install and provide wheel chocks to prevent mobile and temporary cooking units from moving.
l. A food truck or food trailer operator shall keep and maintain all record-keeping documents in one location on the mobile cooking operation and shall make such records available to the Mattawan Fire Department.

Section 14. Operational Safety Requirements.
In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare and in addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or food trailer operator of a food truck or food trailer in use in the Village shall adhere by to following operational safety requirements:
a. The operator shall not leave cooking equipment unattended while it is still hot.
b. The operator shall only operate or permit the operation of cooking equipment only when all windows, service hatches, and ventilation sources are fully opened unless weather conditions require the retaining of interior heat.
c. The operator shall ensure that all gas supply piping valves and gas container valves are fully closed when the equipment is not in use.
d. The operator shall ensure that all cooking equipment, including the cooking ventilation system, is regularly cleaned and grease removed.
e. All mobile or temporary cooking operations shall be separated from other mobile or temporary cooking operations by a clear space distance of 10 ft.
f. The address of the current operational location for all food trucks or food trailers in use in the Village shall be posted and accessible to all employees.

Section 15. Fuel and Power Source Regulations
In addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or trailer owner or operator of a food truck or trailer in use in the Village shall be required to adhere to the following regulations regarding the cooking fuel and power source(s):
a. Prior to commencing cooking, the operator shall verify that fuel tanks are filled to the capacity needed for uninterrupted operation during normal operating hours.
b. Refueling shall only be permitted during non-operating hours.
c. Any engine-driven source of power shall be separated from the public by barriers, such as physical guards, fencing, or enclosures.
d. Any engine-driven source of power shall be turned off and completely shut down prior to refueling from a portable container.
e. Prior to refueling from a portable container, the operator shall verify that surfaces of engine-driven source of power are cool to the touch.
f. An operator shall ensure that all electrical appliances, fixtures, equipment, and wiring comply with the NFPA 70®.
g. An operator shall ensure that exhaust from engine-driven sources of power comply with the following:
i. The source of exhaust shall be located at least 10 ft in all directions from openings and air intakes.
ii. The source of exhaust shall be located at least 10 ft from every means of egress.
iii. The source of exhaust shall be directed away from all buildings.
iv. The source of exhaust shall be directed away from all other cooking vehicles and operations.
v. The source of exhaust shall be directed away from the public.

Section 16. Propane System Integrity
In addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or trailer owner or operator of a food truck or trailer in use in the Village which utilizes propane for cooking fuel shall adhere to the following regulations regarding the propane system integrity prior to placing such unit in use in the Village:
tor shall ensure that the main shutoff valve on all gas containers is readily accessible at all times.
f. The operator shall ensure that portable gas containers are in the upright position and secured to prevent tipping over.
g. The operator shall perform leak testing on all new gas connections of the gas system.
h. The operator shall perform leak testing on all gas connections affected by replacement of an exchangeable container.
i. The operator shall ensure that where a gas detection system is installed, that it has been tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
j. The operator shall document all leak testing and shall make documentation available for review by the authorized official.
k. The operator shall ensure that on gas system piping, a flexible connector is installed between the regulator outlet and the fixed piping system.

Section 17. Solid Fuel Regulations
In addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or trailer owner or operator of a food truck or trailer in use in the Village which utilizes solid fuel (wood, charcoal, or other fuel) for cooking shall adhere to the following additional regulations prior to placing such unit in use in the Village:
a. Such fuel shall not be stored above any heat-producing appliance or vent.
b. Such fuel shall not be stored closer than 3 ft to any cooking appliance.
c. Such fuel is not stored near any combustible flammable liquids, ignition sources, chemicals, and food supplies and packaged goods.
d. Such fuel is not stored in the path of the ash removal or near removed ashes.
e. Ash, cinders, and other fire debris shall be removed from the firebox at regular intervals and at least once a day.
f. Removed ashes, cinders, and other removed fire debris must be placed in a closed, metal container located at least 3 feet from any cooking appliance.

Section 18. Validity and Severability
Should any portion of this Ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 19. Repealer Clause
Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith arc hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 20. Violation
A violation of this ordinance shall be a municipal civil infraction and, shall be punishable by a fine of $250 for any portion of a day in which the violation occurs. In addition, all applicants agree that a violation of this ordinance creates a public nuisance that the Village shall be entitled to enforce by seeking injunctive relief or any other remedy allowed by law.

Section 21. Effective Date
This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jolie Storm-Artis, Clerk of the Village of Mattawan, certify that at a regular meeting of the Village Council held on May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Mattawan Village Hall, at which the following members were present:
Begeman, Cole, McLean, Smith, Streeter, Stuut
The Council enacted Ordinance # 0527-2025, to become effective May 27, 2025, and to be published pursuant to the provisions of the Village Charter.
6 Ayes
0 Nays
0 Abstentions

Constitutional Crisis March draws 100 protesters; $300 raised for Lawrence UMC Food Pantry

PAW PAW - Approximately 100 people gathered in downtown Paw Paw Saturday, May 31, to protest the Constitutional Crisis in America. Hosted by Indivisible Southwest Michigan, the group met at the Van Buren County Courthouse parking lot in Paw Paw before marching to Michigan Avenue.

According to organizers, approximately $300 was raised for the food pantry at the Lawrence United Methodist Church, which experienced cuts from the United States Department of Agriculture via the Feeding America program.

"Trump and his administration are just ignoring the checks and balances by going around the Supreme Court, defying court orders and ignoring the things that Congress has already done," said Anne Hawkinson, an organizer of the event.

Indivisible SWM is committed to helping area organizations affected by the recent Trump administration budget cuts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture budget has been cut by $1 billion in federal funding, which will impact local food banks and pantries, as well as school breakfast and lunch programs.

"These cuts have significant ramifications for those relying on these programs, including individuals experiencing hunger, food banks, and farmers," said an Indivisible SWM spokesperson.

The next march is planned for Saturday, June 14, in Paw Paw. The 'No Kings' March will be a joint nationwide protest as a Day of Defiance on Flag Day during President Trump's birthday parade.

Lawrence Elementary hosts first-ever Farmers' Market

LAWRENCE - On May 23, Lawrence Elementary School held its first-ever farmers' market, bringing fresh produce and hands-on learning directly to its students. The event was made possible through a partnership with Crisp Country Acres Farm, Stocchiero Farms, Farm Bureau, and Project SHINE through Van Buren Intermediate School District.

Students had the opportunity to meet a local farmer and representatives from Project SHINE, who shared engaging lessons about the health benefits of vegetables, where they grow, and why locally grown produce often has more nutritional value than items shipped from far away.

After the informative lesson - and answering all of the students' many curious questions - the kids got to pick out fresh asparagus, potatoes, radishes, carrots, and tomatoes to take home.

"Wow! I get to bring home all these fresh vegetables," one excited student exclaimed while selecting their produce.

To help families make the most of their fresh goods, Project SHINE also provided recipe cards featuring simple and delicious ways to prepare fruits and vegetables.

The farmers' market was not just a celebration of healthy food - it was a meaningful step in connecting students with their community and helping them appreciate the value of fresh, local nutrition.

Paw Paw Area Rotary honors Aspire Academy students

The Paw Paw Area Rotary honored Aspire Academy Students of the Month for De-cember through May at the rotary's May 8 meeting. Shown in photo from left, are, January - Creed Rayborn is a dedicated senior at Cedar Street who also attends Van Buren Tech, where her talents and ambition truly shine. Her involvement with the Gaming Club reflects her creativity and team spirit, while her passion for animation highlights her artistic vision and drive. February - Bones Smith works diligently to stay on top of their classwork, partici-pates well in classroom conversations, adding thoughtful ideas to the conversations while maintaining a job and activities outside of the school day. March - Olivia Skowronski joined Aspire Academy in December and has been working in the learning lab with all forms of effort to catch up. She is extremely polite and respectful and hardworking. April - Jason De-glopper is an exceptional student who consistently demonstrates excellence in both his academic performance and personal character. Jason is an outstanding role model for his peers. He is kind, respectful and always willing to lend a hand to others. May - Jayonna Hunt has been fantastic since joining Aspire Academy. She is kind, friendly, punctual and consistently hard-working. She is a joy to have in class. Missing from the photo is December - Nox Madgyesi, an outstanding student who brings sunshine and fun to conversations. Classwork is given full attention, and they go above and beyond on projects - finding exciting ways to enhance them. Nox is warm and welcoming to everyone and a good friend. On the far right is Rotary member, Phyllis Sahr.

Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Area Rotary Club

Nava signs Letter of Intent

Yanel Nava, center, is shown with his parents, Mayte Aviles and Gerardo Nava as he recently signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Muskegon Community College.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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